

**Rural District of Louth.**

---

**Annual Report**

*OF THE*

**Medical Officer of Health**

*FOR*

**The Year 1947.**

---

PRINTED BY  
T. E. WIGGEN AND SON, LTD.  
"THE PRINTERIES"  
LOUTH







**Rural District of Louth.**

---

# **Annual Report**

*OF THE*


**Medical Officer of Health**

*FOR*

**The Year 1947.**

---

PRINTED BY  
T. E. WIGGEN AND SON, LTD.  
"THE PRINTERIES"  
LOUTH



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29744465>

## To the Chairman and Members of the Louth Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District for 1947.

The statistics, so far as they are an index of the health and prosperity of the District, are most satisfactory except in one instance. The live birth rate is a record for the District and the still birth rate is satisfactorily low. The general death rate compares favourably with the country as a whole, but the deaths of infants under one year are unusually high. The fact that four of these deaths were in respect of children from Displaced Persons' Camps does not explain the high figure.

The District was not severely affected by the national epidemic of Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) and fortunately no deaths resulted. There were no cases of Diphtheria notified. It is regretted that the diphtheria immunisation returns show a decline, but it is hoped and expected that it is temporary and due to the reasons stated in the Report.

Matters appearing under sanitation and housing headings call for little comment or criticism. Progress has been made in the Water Schemes; and the building programme, though, of necessity slower than desired gives promise of improvement.

The completion of the Housing Survey is happily within sight and we can look forward to the authoritative information which this will supply. Not the least satisfactory part of its completion will be the release of the sanitary inspector, practically full time so engaged, to help in the general sanitary duties, which up to now have been supervised at almost minimal levels.

The first optimistic step out of the deadlock which has attended the Council's duty regarding the supervision of Milk Supplies was taken when a proper register was at last compiled.

I wish to express my gratitude to the various Councillors for the practical work they undertook to translate theoretic lists into reliable information by personal visits. My thanks are also due to Mr. Orwin of the County Health Department who helped to collaborate information from the various Headquarters, and for the courtesy of the information supplied by the various firms collecting milk from the District for heat treatment.

It is hoped that after the prolonged and difficult birth the future scheme of supervision will be worthy of the importance of this article of food.

It is not traditional routine that prompts me to express my grateful thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the valuable help and courtesy which have at all times been accorded to me.

I remain.

Yours faithfully,

W J. KERRIGAN,

July 1948.

Medical Officer of Health.

## ***Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions for the Year 1947.***

### **Public Health Officers :**

Medical Officer of Health.

W J. KERRIGAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., L.M., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor :

S. SHONE, A R , San I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector and Assist. Building Surveyor :

J. P. SMITH, A.R. San. I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector engaged mainly full time on  
Rural Housing Survey :

P. CHILDS, A.R. San. I. commenced duty 5.5.47.

Milk and Dairies Inspector (Part Time) :

A. H. ADAMS, M.R.C.V.S.

### **SECTION A.**

## **Social Conditions and General Statistics.**

Area of Rural District in Acres	...	...	153,129
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population			17,030
Density of Population per Acre	...	...	0.1
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	5,115
Rateable Value of Inhabited Houses	...	...	£33,056
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£228



## VITAL STATISTICS.

**Births.**

(a) LIVE	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	324	193	131
Illegitimate	18	10	8
	<hr/> 342 <hr/>	<hr/> 203 <hr/>	<hr/> 139 <hr/>

**(b) STILL**

Legitimate	1	1	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 1 <hr/>	<hr/> 1 <hr/>	<hr/> Nil <hr/>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	20.1 (20.5)
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	0.06 (0.5)
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of total births	3.0

<b>Deaths</b>	Total	Male	Female
	203	108	95

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	11.9 (12.0)
--	-------------

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List)	Nil
--	-----

**Death Rate of Infants under one year old :**

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	47 (41)
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	49
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

**Causes of Death of Infants under one year .**

Prematurity	6
Gastro-Enteritis	4
Congenital malformation and birth injuries	3
Pneumonia	3
	<hr/> 16 <hr/>

## General causes of Death in the Rural District of Louth 1947.

	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	2
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—
3. Influenza	—	1
4. Measles	—	1
5. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (male) and uterus (Female)	3	1
6. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1	2
7. Cancer of breast	—	6
8. Cancer of all other sites	7	9
9. Diabetes	—	1
10. Intra cranial vascular lesions	13	12
11. Heart diseases	24	26
12. Other diseases of circulatory system	4	8
13. Bronchitis	6	—
14. Pneumonia	5	2
15. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	—
16. Diarrhæa under two years	3	1
17. Appendicitis	1	—
18. Other digestive diseases	2	3
19. Nephritis	2	1
20. Premature birth	4	2
21. Congenital malformation, birth injury, infantile diseases	2	1
22. Suicide	—	1
23. Road traffic accidents	3	—
24. Other violent causes	4	2
25. All other causes	19	13
Totals	203	108
		95

### Ages of Death.

Years	0/1	1/5	5/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/55	55/65	65/75	75/85	85+	Total
No.	16	—	—	2	6	5	17	18	53	56	30	203

### Cancer Deaths.

Males 11. Females 18. Approximately 70% of total occurred after age of 65 years.



**SECTION B.****General Provision of Health Services of  
the Area.****Laboratory Facilities.**

The Public Health Laboratory, Lincoln, continued to carry out all the routine examinations required by the Council, except the occasionally necessary chemical analyses. This convenient and very satisfactory service became free to the Council after the first quarter of the year.

**Ambulance Facilities.**

Arrangements similar to other years operated satisfactorily and without any official complaints. This service will be administered on a County basis when the National Health Service Act comes into operation.

**Nursing in the Home.**

In the great majority of the Parishes, the nurses engaged by the Nursing Association acted as midwives under grant from the County Council, in addition to their general home nursing duties. This service will be merged in the National Health Scheme when it becomes operative.

**Treatment Centres and Clinics.**

The County Council, which makes provision for these, did not arrange any extensions during the year. The boundary parishes are mostly able to avail of the facilities provided in the adjoining towns.

**Hospitals.**

Both the General and Infectious Disease Hospital accommodation has remained quite satisfactory.

## SECTION C.

## Sanitary Circumstances in the Area.

## Water Supply.

The following shows the number of samples taken during the year with the results of bacteriological examinations :—

Source	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Faecal Pollution
Public Supplies—				
(a) Binbrook	10	10	—	—
(b) Grimoldby—Manby	12	12	—	—
(c) Proposed new sources	2	2	—	—
New Housing Estates	6	2	4 (same source)	—
Ice Cream Producers	9	9	—	—
School Bores	6	4	—	2 (same source)
Farm Supplies	14	7	3	4
Village Pumps	8	2	2	4
Totals	67	48	9	10

In addition six chemical analyses were done, two in respect of trial sources of public supplies together with the twice yearly routine examinations of each of the established Public Supplies. The results, vide example detailed in Appendix, confirmed the purity of these waters. Appropriate action was taken in the cases where reports were unsatisfactory.

During the latter part of the year the laying of water mains was begun for the servicing of three parishes by simple extension schemes. At the end of the year, the work was completed for supplying the parish of Stewton with water purchased in bulk from Louth Borough Council, and in progress, for connecting Holton-le-Clay with a supply from the the Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Water Board, and Ludford from the Air Ministry bore under similar financial arrangement.

A temporary supply was provided for the village of Donington-on-Bain, the urgency for which was approved following the Public Inquiry. The supply is collected in a small reservoir from sealed springs and piped to a stand pipe in the village. The water is satisfactory regarding quality and quantity.



On farm premises 11 new bores were sunk with grant aid from the C.A.E.C.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

There is little to report under this heading. No new lengths of sewers were laid. Attention was given to drains and drainage systems as demanded.

### **Sewerage Disposal Works.**

Both these works were reported as operating satisfactorily during the year. No structural additions or repairs were required.

Two analyses of the effluents from each of the plants were reported as conforming to the accepted chemical standards. A copy of one of these reports will be found in the Appendix.

### **House Refuse Collection.**

Fortnightly collections were maintained similarly to the previous year for twelve parishes. The contemplated extension for the inclusion of six additional parishes did not materialise owing to lorry shortage. The purchase of a third vehicle was under consideration at the end of the year.

The final disposal of the refuse is by controlled tipping.

### **Nuisances.**

Total number of nuisances during year :—

(1)	Abated as a result of informal action by the Sanitary Inspector	...	...	...	54
(2)	Reported to Council :—				
	(a) Statutory notice issued	...	...	...	1
	(b) Statutory notice not issued	...	...	...	nil

## **SECTION D**

### **Housing.**

**Total Number of new Houses erected during the year:—**

(1)	By the Local Authority	...	...	...	11
(2)	By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	23

**1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—**

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	1,215
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	1,339

(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	1,187
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	... ..	1,274
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	Nil
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	725

## 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—

Number of Defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	... ..	25
---	--------	----

## 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—		
	(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... .. 1
	(2)	Number of dwellings in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	Nil
(a)	(c)	(d) Proceedings under the Housing Act 1936	... .. Nil

## 4. Housing Act 1936 (Part IV), Overcrowding.

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	... .. Not known
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	„ „
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	„ „
	Two bad cases of overcrowding were reported and relieved during the year.		

## 5. Movable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.

(a)	Number inspected during the year	... .. 31
(b)	Number of nuisances abated therefrom	... .. Nil
(c)	Number removed from the district	... .. 3



## 6. New Houses.

The following gives the list of Council houses

(a) Completed during the year.

(b) Started but not completed at end of 1947.

Site	Type	Number
(a) Fotherby	Swedish Timber	2
N. Thoresby	Traditional brick-3 bedrooms	5
Grimoldby	„ „ „	4
(b) N. Thoresby	Traditional brick-3 bedrooms	5
N. Somercotes	„ „ „	10
Withern	„ „ „	8
Grainthorpe	„ „ „	10
Grimoldby	„ „ „	8
Grimoldby	Brick Bungalow -2 bedrooms	4

## Squatters Camps.

The day to day maintenance of these camps which housed about 50 families, presents an ever present problem to the Sanitary Department on account of the unsuitability of the premises for other than temporary needs and the careless habits of some of the tenants. The tenants, except in one small camp, are provided with a proper water supply and mains sewerage, but the general amenities fall far short of reasonable living standards. The problem, indeed, is not so much concerned with the immediate supervision of the buildings as with the difficulty of anticipating any possible date of their closure.

## Rural Housing Survey.

During the year 1186 houses were inspected which was an improvement on the previous year. This leaves about 1,000 houses still to be inspected before completion.

## SECTION E.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

#### Bakehouses.

Number in district	...	...	13
Number of Inspections	...	...	16
Contraventions of Factory Acts	...	...	1
Defects remedied	...	...	1

**\*Cowsheds.**

Number on Register	...	...	665
Number of Inspections	...	...	1070
Contraventions of Regulations	..		27
Contraventions remedied	...		27
Number of milk cows in District	...		4000 (Approx.)

**\*Dairies and Milk Shops.**

Number on Register	...	...	124
Number of Inspections	...	...	442
Contraventions of Regulations	...		Nil

\*Information supplied by the Milk and Dairies Inspector.

**Milk Supplies.**

Results of sample examinations :—

TYPE OF MILK	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY	SAMPLING AUTHORITY
Tuberculin Tested	5	4	Lindsey C.C.
Accredited	15	13	Lindsey C.C.
Ungraded	2	2	Louth R.D.C.

There are 6 registered producers of Tuberculin Tested milk and 19 of Accredited in the District. A total of 400 farms send all or part of their supplies to heat treatment centres. Approximately 20% of the milk sold in the area is pasteurised, a figure for which I am indebted to the local Food Executive Officer.

The inclusion for the first time of ungraded samples among the test results does not, unfortunately, indicate the birth of scheme for the satisfactory supervision of non-designated milk. The samples refer only to a particular producer and were taken for a specific purpose.

A rather laboured start was however made to provide the basis of such a scheme by an attempt to compile an accurate register of all producers and retailers in the District. In theory, this looked a simple matter in these days when help is so readily forthcoming from the various bodies controlling or interested in milk production, but it so happened that the lists supplied showed disconcerting variations. The Council's Register had the sole merit of being an immediate discard as a museum piece.

It was only as a result of checking by the Councillors of the available information, listed according to parishes, that an accurate register was eventually compiled at the end of the year.



From the register it was found that there was a total of 463 producers in the area. Obviously, in view of the negligible staff available for this work, the Council could not undertake supervision of the total, so for practical purposes the names of the producers of (1 T.T. and accredited milk. (2) those sending all their supplies for heat treatment were deducted leaving a balance of 185, which represented the number of producer-retailers of raw ungraded milk

During 1948 it is hoped to concentrate supervision over the non-designated production by frequent sampling, and follow up inspections where indicated. The results will reveal to what extent the Council is unable to honour its responsibilities in this matter through inadequate staff.

### Ice Cream

Results of sample tests :—

SATISFACTORY

10

UNSATISFACTORY

20

Following a series of very unsatisfactory sample tests from producers, a general inspection, in company with the sanitary inspector, was made of all known producers and retailers in the area. Six producers and two retailers were visited. As a result of the inspection it was considered that only three producers had suitable equipment and premises, and sufficient understanding of methods to produce clean ice cream.

Detailed verbal and written instructions were given to these regarding sterilization of equipment and clean handling, the fruits of which were reflected in the reports of subsequent samples. The three other producers agreed voluntarily to cease production until such time as they satisfied the Council's officers concerning satisfactory methods of manufacture.

## SECTION F

## Prevalence of, and control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Infectious diseases other than Tuberculosis notified during 1947—excluding Service cases.

Disease	Total Cases	Admitted Hospital	Deaths
Measles	53	—	—
Chicken Pox	12	—	—
Pneumonia	7	1	—
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—
Whooping Cough	17	—	—
Opthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	8	8	—
Mumps	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Totals	104	9	—

## Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of primary immunisations done 1947.

(a) 1— 4 years inclusive	...	...	177
(b) 5—14 years inclusive	...	...	62
Number of re-inforcing doses given	...	...	76

Estimated percentage of children immunised in the area.

(a) 1— 4 years inclusive	...	...	78% (approx).
(b) 5—14 years inclusive	...	...	90%

The following is a brief summary of the result of a survey for the 33 elementary schools in the district at the end of year.

Percentage Immunised	100	100/95	95/90	90/85	85/80	80/75	Under 75
No. of Schools in category	7	6	10	8	—	—	2

There was a decided decrease in the numbers immunised in the particular groups for the year. This was due in the main to the shortage of Health Visitors in the area and was of course reflected in the pre-school results. There is little obstinate objection encountered these days, but passiveness



requires to be overcome by personal contacts and definite arrangements for treatment-duties with which the Health Visitors are directly concerned.

### **Tuberculosis: New Cases and Mortality during 1947**

Age Periods				New Cases				Deaths			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...								
1	...	...	...								
5	...	...	...		1						
15	...	...	...		1						
25	...	...	...	2	1			1		1	
35	...	...	...	1				1			
45	...	...	...				1		1		
55	...	...	...						1		
65 & upwards	...	...	...								
Totals				3	3		1	2	2	1	

### **Appendix 1.** **Chemical Analysis.**

W. W. TAYLOR.

1, Regent Street,  
Nottingham.  
15th October, 1947.

Report of Analysis of Waters 30th September.

Received 7th October, 1947, from Louth Rural District Council.

Mark. Grimoldby and Binbrook Water.

This sample contains per 100,000 parts :—

	Manby	Binbrook
Total Solids dried at 180°C	34.00	34.00
Suspended Matters	absent	absent
Chlorides as chlorine	1.78	1.78
Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrate	absent	0.24
Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrite	absent	absent
Free Ammonia	0.0032	0.0004
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0004	0.0004
Temporary Hardness	18.00	15.00

Permanent Hardness	0.00	8.00
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F from N/80 KMnO <sub>4</sub>	0.004	0.00
pH value	7.90	7.20
Appearance	clear & bright	clear & bright
Odour	none	none
Taste and Colour	normal	normal
Heavy Metals	absent	absent
Free Chlorine	absent	absent

Bacillus Coli (Presumptive)

Sodium Carbonate equivalent to 4.24.

These water samples, were, at the time of sampling, free from organic pollution and of suitable chemical quality for human consumption domestic and dairy purposes subject to their passing the recognised bacteriological examination.

W. W. TAYLOR.

## Appendix 2.

W. W. TAYLOR, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

1, Regent Street,  
Nottingham.  
15th October, 1947.

Report of Analysis of Sewage Effluents 30th September.

Received 7th October, 1947, from Louth Rural District Council.  
Mark. Manby Sewage Effluent and Binbrook Sewage Effluent.

These effluents contain per 100,000 parts :—

	Manby	Binbrook
Total Solids dried at 100°C	62.00	52.00
Suspended Matter	1.00	1.00
Chlorides as chlorine	5.68	7.10
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.20	3.12
Nitrite Nitrogen	0.0011	0.0050
Free Ammonia	0.168	0.004
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.004	0.004
Oxygen absorbs from N/80 KMnO <sub>4</sub> in (a) three minutes	0.10	0.38
(b) 4 hours @ 80°F	0.74	0.70
pH Value	7.60	7.60
5 days Biological Oxygen Demand at 65°F	1.40	1.40
5 days Incubation Test at 80°F	Stable	Stable

These Effluents, at the time of sampling satisfied the accepted standards of chemical quality and were suitable for free discharge into inland waters.

W. W. TAYLOR.







